

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W
-----031523 020754Z /13

R 012135Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6596
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4144

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH
SUBJ: BELIZE DOMINATES ARMY DAY ADDRESS

1. SUMMARY: TRADITIONAL ARMY DAY ADDRESS REGISTERED, IN VERY BELLICOSE TERMS, ARMED FORCES READINESS TO CONFRONT BRITISH OVER BELIZE. END SUMMARY.
2. CENTERPIECE OF JUNE 30 ARMY DAY CELEBRATIONS WAS NATIONALLY BROADCAST ADDRESS DELIVERED IN NAME OF ARMED FORCES BY AIR FORCE COMMANDANT COL. ROBERTO SALAZAR ASTURIAS. IN AUDIENCE WERE PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, CABINET MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. SALAZAR DEVOTED TWO-THIRDS OF HIS SPEECH TO BELIZE. DATT IS REPORTING FULL TEXT.

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3. LANGUAGE WAS PERHAPS HARSHEST YET. SALAZAR WARNED THAT BECAUSE OF "THE INSOLENCES OF THE EXTRA-CONTINENTAL POWER WHICH ILLEGALLY HOLDS...BELIZE, THERE ARE HINTS OF IMMINENT ARMED CONFRONTATION ON THE HORIZON." GREAT BRITAIN HAD DISDAINED GUATEMALAN PRIDE, "BUT AS EVERYTHING HAS ITS LIMIT, SO IT IS THAT OUR TOLERANCE CAN ALSO BE EXHAUSTED, AND WHEN THE SUPREME INSTANT

OF HISTORIC DEFINITION COMES, WE WILL KNOW HOW TO ELIMINATE ON THE BATTLEFIELD ANY AFFRONT TO OUR DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY." THE MILITARY INSTITUTION PROCLAIMS, HE SAID, "ITS READINESS AND PERMANENT DETERMINATION TO ENTER INTO ACTION WITH ITS LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES AS SOON AS ITS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GIVES THE ORDER." TROOPS ASSEMBLED FOR THE OCCASION WERE TOLD THAT "THE FATHERLAND WILL SOON DEMAND OF YOU ITS DEFENSE...THE COMBAT WILL BE UNEQUAL (BUT) THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD WILL KNOW BY YOUR FEARLESSNESS WHAT A NATION JEALOUS OF ITS INTEGRITY, DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY CAN DO."

4. ELSEWHERE ADDRESS CHARACTERIZED BRITISH AS "PIRATES" TRUE TO THE TRADITION OF HENRY MORGAN AND SIR FRANCIS DRAKE WHILE CLOAKING THEMSELVES IN THE RHETORIC OF SELF-DETERMINATION. HE LIKENED FORMER BRITISH COLONIES TO A "PACK OF HUNGRY DOGS" WHOSE OBEDIENCE TO FORMER MASTER REFLECTS RELATIVELY RECENT (SIC) SLAVE PAST. SPEECH ALSO CONTAINED WORDS OF GRATITUDE FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN SUPPORT. DESPITE FACT THAT SOME NATIONS OF HEMISPHERE HAD MADE COMMON CAUSE WITH UK, LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY WOULD PREVAIL, HE PREDICTED, IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMON DANGER OF DISMEMBERMENT AND COMMUNIST INFILTRATION.

5. COMMENT: TOUGH TALK IS OF A PIECE WITH JUNE 12
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PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE (GUATEMALA 3723) AND IF ANYTHING LANGUAGE IS EVEN MORE POINTED AND INTEMPERATE. OCCASION AND FORUM MADE SOME TREATMENT OF THIS SUBJECT INEVITABLE, BUT LANGUAGE IS STRIDENT. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ADDRESS WAS CLEARED BY HIGH COMMAND.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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